Mr. Les Payne
Newsroom
Newsday
550 Stewart Ave.,
Garden City, N.Y. 11530

5/5/76

Dear Les,

When I phoned at from Jim's today it was too soon. My feet were bothering me, I had getting an affidavit executed on the mind, and I'd not really had time to think of the day's developments, in court at at the Seat of Government (diminutive for the FBI headquarters, in Hooverese).

I think there is one of the more delightful spoof stories, grim as it also is, in this.

And a possibility of some change in the not distant future.

I've been leaning, as best a tiny quadriped can lean against an elephant, on the FBI for a few bits of evidence. (The rest are covered.) They swore they don't have a single picture of the scene of the crime. After the end of the working day yesterday Jim got a phone call from the Assistant U.S.Attorney saying that the FBI had labored and come up with something like 200 pictures. Abd that it represents something like more than %60 of search time in the Memohis office.

Well, the guy who showed them to us after the session in court today is the same agent who swore 4/21 that there just are none. These, it turns out, all came from Time-Life. I looked at them, picked out a dozen or more I said I wanted, even though they had given two contradictory stories in both of which I'd get none about these particular pictures.

"Where are the rest, Tom?" I asked this agent.

"That's all," he said.

Nope, I told him, explaining that I was specifying only one omission because he had sworn I gave no specifics. And while telling him it was not inclusive I described one that was missing. That one, he will have understood, is consistent with one of the FBI men not at the scene of the crime examining King's body before the ambulance came.

When he showed me all the rest, I said "Where are the rest?" No more, he assured me. Nope, I told him, you got prints of all the Memphis P.D. pictures, and you have how showed me one.

He didn't know what to do. I assured him my source was one of the best, as you may remember it is, and I knew they had them.

Bit- here you have 200,000 different records, not just pages, in the FBI field offices and they have not a single picture of their own in accord with their own handbook? The only pictures of the scene of the crime (Not counting a role of 9x9 Army Engineer aerial photos) come from Time-Life? None of Main St.?

I'm tired. I'm going to enclose Levi's press statement. But among the other things of which I did not thing is a possible forecast from the judge that she is going to get them to hire a staff to this case and make a real inventory, of all relevant D.J. Files. That would be something.She not only knows there are stonewalling, she is giving them signals.

There is more but I'm too tired. We'll know more in a week. But imagine the vaunted FBi, in the peace cycle of war and peace, in its second largest investigation in its long history, without a picture of its own of the scene of the crime. And trying to kid me on those they got from Time-Life.

best,

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